

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating ischemic congestive heart failure comprising the steps of:
  - identifying akinetic tissue within a heart chamber wall;
  - making an incision through the akinetic tissue in the chamber wall;
  - placing a patch inside the chamber wall;
  - excluding the akinetic tissue through suturing wherein the suture comprises a superelastic or shape memory material; and
  - closing the incision.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising using a purse-string stitch to exclude the akinetic tissue.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the suture comprises nitinol.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the suture comprises more than one material.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of making an incision comprises using an endoscope with an incising tip.
6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting a shaping device into the chamber through the incision, said shaping device comprising compliant material.
7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting a shaping device into the chamber through the incision, said shaping device being self-expanding.
8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch comprises a superelastic or shape memory material.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the patch is configured to engage the ventricle wall to limit the movement of the patch relative to the ventricle wall.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of identifying akinetic tissue comprises providing one or more images to a computer.
11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing one or more images to a computer, and using the computer to determine when to perform the method.
12. The method of Claim 11, wherein images of the heart at different time intervals can be saved.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein two or more persons using different computers can view the model.

14. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing one or more images to a computer, and using the computer to determine an appropriate size for one or more devices.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the suture comprises three sections such that the section in the middle along the length of the suture comprises a superelastic or shape memory material

16. A device for closing an opening in anatomical tissue comprising an elongate suture having a plurality of sections wherein at least one of said sections comprises a superelastic or shape memory material.

17. The device of Claim 16, wherein said suture comprises a synthetic material.

18. The device of Claim 16, wherein said suture comprises a natural material.

19. The device of Claim 16, wherein one or more of said sections comprises nitinol.

20. The device of Claim 16, wherein the suture when drawn around an opening forms a non-circular shape.

21. A method for treating a heart related ailment in a patient comprising the steps of:

identifying akinetic tissue within a heart chamber wall;  
making an incision through the akinetic tissue in the chamber wall;  
placing one or more patches inside the chamber wall;  
excluding the akinetic tissue through suturing wherein the suture comprises a superelastic or shape memory material; and  
closing the incision.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said heart related ailment comprises congestive heart failure.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein said heart related ailment comprises ischemic congestive heart failure.

24. The method of Claim 21, wherein said heart related ailment comprises heart failure associated with regional wall-motion abnormality.